

## PEER REVIEW

by Prof. Dr. Borislav Aleksandrov Yasenov

Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv

of the materials submitted for participation in a competition for the academic position “**Professor**” at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv

under Higher education field 8 “Arts”,  
Professional field 8.3 “Music and Dance Arts”, specialty “Piano”

By Order No ПД-27-006 dated 29.01.2021 of the Rector of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv I have been appointed a member of the scientific jury of a competition for the occupation of the academic position of “Professor” under Higher education field 8 “Arts”, Professional field 8.3 “Music and Dance Arts”, scientific specialty “Piano”, announced for the needs of the Department of Piano and Accordion at the Faculty of Music Pedagogy. For participation in the competition, published in State Gazette, Issue 103 of 04.12.2020, one candidate submitted documents, namely Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lyudmil Borisov Petkov from Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv. The submitted documents and materials, in electronic media, meet all the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation in the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts.

Lyudmil Petkov graduated from the Music High School – Plovdiv (now Dobrin Petkov National School of Music and Dance) with a diploma for high artistic achievements in the field of Performing Arts. In 1977 he participated in the master class of Prof. Rudolf Kehrer in Weimar, Germany. He continued his education at the Bulgarian State Conservatory (1980 – 1984), actively participating in concerts, productions, and music meetings.

L. Petkov began his teaching career in 1985 at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv at the Department of Piano and Accordion, Faculty of Music Pedagogy, passing through each degree in the academic hierarchy from Part-time Lecturer, to Assistant (1987), Senior Assistant (1993), Chief Assistant (1997), and Associate Professor (2010). In 2016 he was awarded the educational and scientific degree “**Doctor**”.

Important in his pedagogical practice is the enrichment of the repertoire studied by students with works by Bulgarian composers, emblematic of both our national culture and Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv (Prof. Ivan Spasov, Prof. Nikolay Stoykov, and others). L. Petkov actively includes young musicians in his concert performances and projects, taking into account the positive influence of personal example and continuity in vocational training – an important factor for inspiring self-confidence in building future creative personalities.

The artistic activity of Assoc. Prof. Dr. L. Petkov is extremely rich and diverse. He has given concerts in Germany, Austria, France, Switzerland, Taiwan, Norway, Finland, and Sweden.

In the period from 1986 until 2012 he performed solo and chamber concerts, some of which with famous musicians such as violinists Prof. A. Spirov, S. Simeonov (USA), Hr. Marichkov (Germany), D. Marchetti (Switzerland), Prof. E. Baldzhieva – soprano, Assoc. Prof. K. Grozdanov – flute, and others. The programs of these concerts include sonatas, chamber works, song cycles, and solo works by famous composers from all musical eras.

In the period from 1993 until 1998 Assoc. Prof. Dr. Petkov worked as a freelance artist in Germany (without interrupting his work experience at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts).

In 1998 he founded the instrumental trio “Plovdiv”, a regular participant in the musical and poetic evenings at the Ethnographic Museum, featured in the cultural poster of the Old Town in Plovdiv.

In 1997 Assoc. Prof. Dr. Petkov began his partnership with the violinist Prof. Mario Hossen (Austria), with whom he performed numerous concerts and participated in local and international festivals, and realized a two-week tour in Taiwan (2001). Thanks to their creative achievements and the CD “Caprice Viennois” released in Austria, the duo was chosen to present Austrian musical culture at the official inauguration of the Austrian ambassador in Paris. The recording activity continued with: second CD – “Paganiniana”, dedicated to the prominent clarinetist Prof. Boris Petkov (“Gega New”, Sofia, 2004), participation in a compilation CD dedicated to the 70th anniversary of the birth of the composer Ivan Spasov (2004), realized recording of a concert of “ANDENEC MANNKOR” – a male chamber choir from Norway with conductor Anna Nikolaef in Studio 1 of Radio Plovdiv (2006), as well as participation in three pieces from the international project “Spirit of Paganini” (“DYNAMIC”, Austria, 2018).

In 2016 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, under a project by L. Petkov, the Academy published the CD “Ave Maria”, in which the academic groups “Lamico Band” and “Intro” participated. Apart from being a pianist, the candidate also participates in the CD with three original pieces.

In 2017, the long-conceived integral performance of Mozart’s piano sonatas began, and so far the candidate has performed the ten sonatas from the first volume.

An achievement is also the integral performance of 36 sonatas for piano and violin by W. A. Mozart within one day in the Concert Hall of the Plovdiv Philharmonic (2007), the three-hour solo recital within the project of the Anou Skan Association with performance of all waltzes of Fr. Chopin, as well as many other works, including his own compositions (Ancient Theater, Plovdiv, 2008).

In connection with his doctoral dissertation within six concerts he performed (together with Prof. Sn. Simeonova and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Z. Petrova) 34 works for piano duo by Western European, Slavic, and Bulgarian composers (11 premieres for Bulgaria and for Plovdiv – 13 works).

In September 2015 Assoc. Prof. Dr. Petkov gave piano recitals at Mozarthaus Vienna (solo works by W. A. Mozart) and in Verderonne, France (with works by Bach, Chopin, Schubert, Debussy, Satie, and Rachmaninoff).

L. Petkov’s affinity for jazz and pop music provoked and activated concert and teaching activities in this direction as well. In connection with this, I will mention the few

creative personalities developing and practicing artistic activity in both genres. Here is the place to mention his work with the American singer and trumpeter Troy Anderson, his contacts with the Canadian singer and showman John Labelle, and the creation and leadership of the academic formations “LP Jazz Trio” and “Lamico Band”. The candidate makes numerous media appearances at home and abroad.

For high artistic results he was awarded the Academic award “Meden Chan”.

Of exceptional importance in the candidate’s activity is the presentation of Bulgarian music and performance culture abroad, the realization of connections between the different styles in music and individual arts, as well as the synthesis between them.

An erudite person with high morals and ethics, with a vote of confidence from the college, Assoc. Prof. Dr. L. Petkov was elected Dean of the Faculty of Music Pedagogy at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv.

The candidate also develops scientific and journalistic activity.

The indicators of minimum national requirements are covered, even more than necessary.

In group of Indicators B, point 5, as a leading independent creative expression, 3 recitals with the sonatas of W. A. Mozart from the first volume are performed, which is an artistic and instrumental achievement. From the point of view of the performer-pedagogue, the spiritual messages in Mozart’s piano masterpieces are still educative and constructive; a standard for perfection, on the way of the pianist’s growth, but their difficulty often limits them within the “cabinet” instrumental development. Due to the fact that today they are rarely presented on the concert podium in an integral form, their performance is an achievement.

Contributions of methodological and applied nature:

- *“Unknown and Rarely Performed Works for Piano Duo from the Period XVIII-XX Century – Historical and Performing Perspectives”* – a published book based on a defended dissertation work. The study examines for the first time in the country works for this ensemble, created by composers important for their time. Attention is paid to issues concerning the interpretation of works from a contemporary point of view, and the degree of application of personal aesthetic taste subordinated to the requirements arising from tradition in their interpretation. The line of continuity, the characteristics, and the individual features of 26 composers and 35 works from different musical epochs are analyzed and clarified. (Indicator group B, point 7)
- The methodical manual *“Repertoire Drone”* – pieces and technical instructions to help the pianist. This manual expands the possibilities for concert performance of plays of a genre nature, to which instructive material has been added. Of particular importance in the methodology is the author’s approach to provoking the young musician’s desire for experiments through which to discover his or her identity in the construction of a performing and creative model. (Indicator group F, point 27)
- *“Plays and Instructions with Genre Orientation”* – the main task of the manual is to create an approach and orientation of young pianists in the diverse world of genre music. The opportunities for access to the genre piano repertoire and the development

according to the individual needs and professional growth in the learning process are enriched. (Indicator group F, point 27)

Having in mind the above, I would like to note the high achievements and the contribution nature of the overall active and rich pedagogical, artistic, and research activity of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lyudmil Petkov. The theoretical developments of the candidate have practical applicability and are oriented to the educational work. The achieved results fully comply with the specific requirements of the specialty “Piano” at the Department of Piano and Accordion, Faculty of Music Pedagogy, adopted in connection with the Rules of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv for application of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

After getting acquainted with the materials presented in the competition and analysis of their significance, scientific and applied contributions, I find it reasonable to give my positive assessment to the esteemed scientific jury in support of the candidacy of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lyudmil Borisov Petkov for the academic position “Professor” at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv under Professional field 8.3 “Music and Dance Arts”, scientific specialty “Piano”.

14.03.2021

Prepared by: .....  
(Prof. Dr. Borislav Yassenov)